



Middle School Good Times

Vol. 8 #1

Paw Paw Middle School, Paw Paw, Michigan

September 1981

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"NEW" TEACHERS

This year brought many changes at the middle school. Several teachers were added who had previously been at the elementary.

Ms. Chapman is the new home ec. teacher. Her hobbies include sailing on Lake Michigan, reading, ice skating and softball. She is interested in consumer education and nutrition. She likes sunny days, apple cider and doughnuts as well as autumn color changes. She dislikes icy roads. She says about the middle school, "People are friendly and helpful. The biggest change is getting used to 240 students a week from 30 all year long."

Mrs. Smith is teaching math and English in the sixth grade now that Mr. Crook is teaching 7th grade English. She says about the middle school that she "just loves it." She believes she likes the age of the students the best, and she very much enjoys teaching sixth grade.

Mr. Martin is teaching seventh grade social studies. He taught at Cedar St. for four years before coming back to the middle school where he had taught before. He also taught in Australia for a year. He likes all sports, movies, and seafood. He dislikes getting up in the morning, complainers, and people who don't try. His wife's name is Sandra and he has three children, Bryn 7, Kykie 4, and Kaitlyne, born August 29, 1981.

(story continues on page three)

Thank you

We girls appreciate the new paint in the bathrooms. They look great. The new sinks are nice too. Thanks for the nice work, people.

K.C., T.A. & K.S.

Intramurals Begin

Sports at the middle school are not the same as they used to be. An interview with Mr. Erickson explains why.

Because of budget cuts by the school board, the middle school is unable to have basketball. Reasons are the transportation problems and general fund expenses.

Some money was set aside for an intramural program. The program expects fees for the outside sports. The student council will also provide help in fund raising to help us have a strong and successful program.

Some 42 parents have volunteered to help. So have quite a few students.

S.M. & S.S.

Wonder Why?

Did you ever wonder why P.P.M.S. doesn't have an 8th grade graduation exercise? Lauri Bonelli did so she asked Mr. Pefley. He reports that there has never been an 8th grade graduation in Paw Paw. The way our school system works the grades aren't known until after school is out for summer, so how would anyone know who would receive a diploma and who wouldn't?

STUDENT COUNCIL

The purpose of the student council is to provide leadership training and experiences for its members. They help other students and should be a good example to the whole student body. They are active in fund-raising programs.

In the past they have helped raise money for things such as the water fountains, athletic equipment, the trophy case, and track ribbons. They have also contributed to buying the choir sweaters. The money they raise also goes for student dances.

L.B.

Schedules

Having problems with schedules? Here is an explanation for the odd/even areas.

6th grade- sixth hour- 12:45-1:33, seventh hour- 1:33-2:20. Classes-P.E. 6, odd, Band- even 7, art, even 6, I.G.S. 7 odd. On dates ending with 1,3,5,7,9, you would go to your odd classes. On dates ending with 2,4,6,8, 0, you go to even classes.

7th grade- fourth hour- 10:28-11:16, fifth hour- 11:50- 12:40, odd, choir 4, health 5, even P.E. 4, home ec. 5.

8th grade- first hour- 7:55-8:43, second hour- 8:46-9:34. Odd, I.G.S., 1, P.E. 2, Even, Band 1, industrial arts 2.
c.k.

6th gr. Speaks

One definite change for everyone was the movement upward through the grades. Last year's fifth graders are now the sixth grade and new to the building. We asked some of them how they're enjoying it.

Patty Wiley said, "I think 6th grade is great." Tony Adkins said, "I like it better than the elementary." Suzy Stevens said, "6th grade is o.k., but the three minutes stink."

Melissa Heighton said, "I hate sixth grade completely." Bill Hensell said, "It's ok." Steve Van Bruseel felt, "It's ok but fifth grade was better."

Debbie Cyrus thought, "it's going ok." Dolores Reed said, "I like going from room to room and I like my teachers." Tracy Drake said, "6th grade is great." Michael Lee said, "I really like it because it's different."

Dawn Stanley said, "I like changing classes." Nancy Clarke thought, "the thing I like best is you get to meet new people."

Amy Oliver stated, "You don't get sick of the teachers like in elementary. Darci Curtis likes the teachers and the boys."

Lisa Smith said, "I like the lockers and the boys." April Ruth-ruff mentioned, "the teachers, art, P.E., schedules, and the time school gets out."

Theresa Mullins said, "I like the activities and the teachers and the work." Kathy Baughman said she liked "the newspaper." (all right!) Greg Watterworth said, "I like it better than the elementary."

Doug Reisterer said, "I like the food, the teachers are ok, and I hate the wooden floors." Michele Veldt, on the other hand, "hates the food." Steve Erickson said, "no comment."

Nikki Wilfong said, "I like reading, art, lunch, and all of the teachers." Laura Sullivan said, "the eighth and seventh graders are mean. The bus comes too early and I love it."

Tim Reinoehl likes "the wooden floors (?), Mr. Lutz, gym, the lunch-room, getting up early, band and music." Gary Conolly likes "gym, Mr. Erickson, (because he's funny), art and study hall." Danny Jones said, "I like gym, reading, and the playground, but most of all, I like all of the teachers."

Julie Root thought, "it's fun and not boring." Chris Lockett said, "Forget it."

7th gr. Opinion

The seventh graders moved upstairs. When asked how they felt about leaving behind the first floor and becoming seventh graders, this is what they had to say.

Gina Blackburn liked "switching classes, but I think we need more time." Kim Shears said, "I like going upstairs because it makes me feel older." Kathy Cureton said, "I like going upstairs, but we need an elevator so it doesn't hurt my legs. We need more time between classes."

Sarah Ferguson felt, "going upstairs makes me feel grown-up, but some people on the stairs go so slow you get tardy for the next class. I like eating at 11:19 because you don't"

7th grade survey continued...

"get so hungry on your way home."

Stephanie Rouse felt, "there is no spare time." Peter Rozenbergs said, "we don't have enough time at lunch."

Christina Lasinski stated, "I have a lot of nice teachers." Kevin Staniszewski said, "we don't have enough time between classes."

Tasha Thompson thought, "It's pretty hectic because you have your lockers downstairs. But, I also kind of like it because I feel sort of grown-up. I love having lunch after 10:30 because when I used to have lunch at that time, I used to get very hungry when I got home."

Tina Adkins said, "I think it's terrific gogin upstairs this year. I feel older. The only regret is that you hardly have time to go to the bathroom or chat a little with your friends. I like having lunch at 11:19 because it's a better time of day to eat."

Sheri Goens said, "This year upstairs is pretty fun, but I don't like having to go up and down the stairs always with so many people on them. I sort of like eating after 10:30 but I don't like it when I have p.e. before it."

Norma Ousley felt, "We should have more time to get to our classes because we have to go downstairs to our lockers. I don't like going up and down the stairs because my legs hurt at the end of the day." Diane Waymire thought, "this year has been okay. I don't really mind my classes being upstairs but the thing that bothers me is that our locker is downstairs and they make us have a better chance at being tardy because we only have a three minute break."

8th-top of the heap

"How does it feel to be on top?" we wondered and these are the responses of the eighth graders.

Becky Hansen said, "peachy, just peachy." Kelly Buhl said, "hunky dorie, kid, hunky dorie." Jalayne Bennett felt "Big for once."

Kay Thatcher exclaimed, "Freaky, man real freaky." Jill Greene added, "Well, hot spit." Debbie Starbuck said, "crazy, man, crazy."

Don Boley and Joe Mayne both agreed that it was really fun. Mark Eyre said, "Great, just great." Kim Holms said,

"Dig it. Cool, all right." Melissa Bryan said, "Like wow, man." Brad McDowell stated, "That's right, we bad." Glenn Dillon, Mike Clarke, and John Schincariol all said, "Power pack power." Jeff VandenBos exclaimed, "Yippee," as did Gary Jaco. Scott Meeth and Shawn Kokitus said, "Whoopee." And Pegg Lynne said, "Great because we get to be around all the cute boys."

MORE "NEW" STAFF

Also new this year is Mr. Palasinski who taught last year at Black River. He says he likes teaching science because he enjoys the topics covered in the eighth grade class. They include geology, weather, volcanoes, earthquakes, astronomy, and chemistry.

He notes that eight graders are much different from the third graders he taught last year because eighth graders are more adult-like. He enjoys students on both age levels because they present challenges and are interesting to teach.

His hobbies are reading, bowling, cross-country skiing and hiking. He is assistant scoutmaster for a Boy Scout troop in PawPaw and has done a lot of camping, hiking and traveling with them. He is also going to college to finish a masters' and hopes to graduate in April.

Mrs. Sang isn't exactly new to the middle school since she worked here one day a week for the past three years teaching the A.T. program.

She likes it here at the middle school teaching 8th grade reading lab. She is glad to have changes like the schedule starting earlier and getting out earlier. She has just moved to town and can walk home and to school.

She is 34, a singer, and has a son 4 years old and a husband who teaches music in Hartford. She spends her spare time singing, cooking exotic food, camping and playing guitar. She speaks Spanish and has been to twelve countries. She loves Chinese and Mexican food. She misses computers with A.T. but enjoys being with older kids.

a.k., s.s., s.m., l.s. and others

The Good Timers for this issue:

Tina Adkins, Kim Shears, Bill Hensell, Betty Dillenbeck, Kraig Goodwin, Myrna Guritz, Melissa Heighton, Shawn Kokitus, Chris Kniss, Scott Meeth, Steve Van Brussel, Michael Lee, Randy Rogers, Laurie Lanphear, Suzy Stevens, Sarah McCarthy, Becky Hansen, Becky Stackhouse, Lauri Bonelli, Brian Shears, Tony Adkins, Andy Kokitus, David Millek, Greg Terrill, Adam House, Patty Wiley, Debbie Cyrus, Tracy Drake, Laura Sullivan, Michelle Page, Kerrie Anderson, Dolores Reed and Kathy Cureton.

Lunch anyone?

Well, it's back to school and that means back to school lunch. Naturally that means more gourmet meals like the perfect peanut butter sandwich, always fresh or macaroni and cheese or Chef Boyardee spaghetti and non-burnt garlic bread.

Yes, there will be many things missing from the good summer time lunch we got used to, but there's always next summer to look forward to.

s.k.

BORING!

Here we are in the boring town of Boring, Idaho. Nothing exciting ever goes on here. But that is not why the town got its name. Back in the eighteenth century, the town was founded by a man whose last name was Boring. He named it after himself. Some of his descendants still live in this wonderfully boring town.

You may ask, "How boring does it get here?" Well, it gets so boring that everyone sleeps. There's nothing to liven up the town, not even a circus. Gee - isn't this boring? The barbershop doesn't hear much for a gossip columnist either. News spreads so slowly here that it has become "olds" by the time it reaches the barber. Boring.

C.K.

FOR REAL?

My family used to go camping by a haunted house. Every night when we were trying to sleep we heard spooky sounds like chains rattling, bats cheeping, and other unexplainable sounds. One night we all went out into the living room and started fighting off everything we heard and now we camp in silence.

t.a.

WHY SEATING CHARTS

Why do teachers use seating charts? Our rowing reporters asked them. Mr. Topp said, "I like them because they help me learn new students' names." Also, he thinks that the way he sets up his charts the behavior in his classes seems better. Mr. Crook simply said, "I love 'em. You have all the talkers spread about the room."

Mrs. Mahanty stated, "I like having assigned squads because it's important for organization, learning names, and having a variety of heights in each squad as well as a mixture of boys and girls." Mr. Brill said, "I think it's extremely important at the beginning of the year to help learn names. Also it's helpful for the substitutes. It is also better than letting students be faced with the problem of having no or all students sitting by them."

Mr. Snyder said, "People deserve a chance to sit where they want until they prove that they can't handle it. I feel good about it. Charts are good for learning names and protecting school property but I feel that a goal should be that students could sit where they want and handle it before the end of the school year."

Mrs. Cusumano likes seating charts. Mr. Ruesink doesn't like them but "if they (students) can't show self-control" he uses them. Mrs. Smith uses them when the kids are noisy, but "they aren't necessary if they behave."

GROWING

Paw Paw is growing. Across from the new Fisher Big Wheel there may be a Mac - Donald's. You know about Subs and Fun. Did you know they might have dancing and more games? Isn't that a good idea? They moved Sub 'n Fun across the street to where the music store used to be.

D. Reed

Today's menu...

Bat wings, mud pies, red worms, water, and green ham with Ajax for fast relief.

p.w.

How old are you on your 65th birthday?
Old enough.

Why did the cat play the fiddle?
To see if anyone knew "hey diddle diddle

DEAR SAM

As usual the Dear Sam columnist was swamped. Poor Sam. He hardly knew where to begin. Some letters even arrived after the deadline which means they will not appear in this issue.

Dear Sam,

I like this boy but I don't think he likes me. I've liked him since sixth grade. What can I do to make him like me?
unnoticed

Dear Un,

Try to be nice to him. Tell your friends to tell him you like him or tell him yourself. Write a letter to him and give it to him your self. That way he sure to notice you. (be sure to do between classes so you aren't passing notes.)

Dear Sam,

I can't decide whether to buy my dog Alpo or Tender Chunky.
Help

Dear Help,

You should try buying both and see what your dog likes and buy that kind.

Dear Sam,

I caught my bestfriend writing on the walls of the bath room. I think it's terrible. What can I do?
??

Dear ??,

You should try to erase it. If that doesn't work, try telling the teacher or the office. Your friend won't have to know how they knew.

Dear Sam,

I have this problem. I talk too much. I want to quit the bad habit but I can't. I just have the urge to talk. Then I get other people in trouble. What are your suggestions?
Talkative

Dear Talk,

Try cough drops and when get the urge to talk, put one in your mouth. If that doesn't do, try jawbreakers or large wads of gum. That'll slow you down. Also, learn to listen more...It's hard to talk if you're really listening.

Confidential: to confused-

If he really loves you, you should be able to talk to him and to tell him no.

Dear Sam,

My friend smells awful. How do I get her to use deodorant? and to shave?
Help

Dear Help,

Tell her to wear deodorant or let her use yours if she can't afford any. Give her yours and buy a new one. She probably doesn't need to shave her legs yet because most girls don't until they get to high school.

Dear Sam,

I am in 8th grade and my sister is in my same grade. I don't know how to handle it.
em

Dear em,

Just ignore your sister -pretend she isn't there. If that doesn't work realize the advantage. You can study together and what you don't get in your notes she may have gotten. You probably have the same teachers. You need to haul home half the books. You could share.

Dear Sam,

I've got a problem. I wrote a boy a note and the teacher caught it. He read it out loud to the class. (how embarrassing.) The worst part is he didn't get to read the last part. That said, "if you like me, write back." What should I do?
note writer

Dear Note,

You should write your notes at home and give them to him before school. That way he could read it and throw it away without any teacher or anyone else seeing it.

Dear Sam,

I have a crush on the new home ec. teacher. How can I make her like me?
Anxious

Dear Anx,

If you really like Ms. Chapman, then you should study harder in her class and not goof off. Plus, be real nice to her. Good luck.

September '81

MORE SAM

More of Sam....

Dear Sam,

My boyfriend always pops me on the head. What should I tell him without being mean? L.H.

Dear L.H.,

How about "ouch?" Sounds to me like he's being mean. Why don't you just tell him to stop? Good grief! He may not realize that what he thinks is a tap actually feels lots worse... Don't put up with it a minute longer. Set him straight. Who needs that kind of hassle?

Dear Sam,

My friends tell me I'm boring and blah. What can I do? Blahs

Dear Blahs,

You could try improving your image by curling your hair so it doesn't look the same all the time. You could help them out with homework but don't give them the answers. Try paying attention in class and get more intelligent. Do some reading. Then talk about it. Good luck.

Dear Sam,

We three have a problem. It's a girl. She won't get off our backs. We tried everything but she won't get the hint. She's so mean to us. We don't like her at all but please tell us what to do.

Attacked by the fuzzzy wuz

Dear Attacked,

You should keep trying to ignore her. If that doesn't discourage her, talk to Mr. Pefley.

Dear Sam,

I like this boy. How do I get him to go with me?

Bothered

Dear Both,

It's not up to the girl to ask the boy to go with her. But you can try to be extra nice to him and you could tell him you like him.

Dear Sam,

My friend wants to cheat off me and I don't want her to. What should I tell her?

friend of xerox

Dear xerox,

You should think it over to yourself and then tell her what you think and why. You could tell the teacher. She/he could keep an eye on her as long as you are covering your paper. If you don't want to do that to a friend, then stop and think about this. Would a real friend ask you to do something dishonest especially if you don't choose to? That isn't a friend; it's someone taking advantage and you aren't helping her. You are keeping her from doing it on her own and finding out she can.

Dear Sam,

I am a 7th grader, a boy who would like to be popular, but most people don't like me. They think I'm really gritty. They say I'm fat. Every time I go on a diet, I fail. They tell me I'm dumb and I'm starting to believe them. I'm scared to go to school. I think I may get beat up. What should I do?

Depressed

Dear De,

If you want to be popular, you could try improving your image by being nicer to people, trying to stick to your diet, and studying harder for tests. The diet would go easier perhaps if you told your parents you needed the help. You might try getting your mind on something else when you think about going to the 'fridge. Promise yourself a reward (not food however) for getting rid of five pounds. Then stick to it. Go after the weight in small amounts. Get out on the playground and walk around at lunch even if you're not part of a game.

I doubt if you are really dumb. Everyone does some things better than others. You may need to spend more time on school work than you'd like to but remember, it'll keep you from eating if you study away from the kitchen. Pick one subject and work on doing better there. Don't let the opinions of others depress you. No one feels popular, handsome or smart all the time. They don't either. See Mr. Pefley if you are still depressed.